Nixon Continues To Gain

Doctors Allow Orally Taken Liquid Diet

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LONG BEACH, Calif., Nov. 2—Former President Nixon continued to show improvement today for the second straight day.

Doctors allowed him to take liquid nourishment by mouth for the first time since his operation Tuesday, but they kept him on the critical list for fear of further complications.

"There are some things that are looking up," said Norman R. Nager, public relations consultant at Long Beach Memorial Hospital here.

"The doctors are obviously still concerned about the dangers to their patient. As long as there are imminent, possible dangers to the man he will be on the critical list," Nager continued.

The medical bulletin issued by Dr. John C. Lungren, Mr. Nixon's chief physician, said the former President spent "a fairly restful night." His vital signs — pulse, respiration, blood pressure and temperature — were reported as "stable and satisfactory." They had been reported within or close to normal level Friday.

Lungren said President Ford's visit to Mr. Nixon Friday "was a therapeutic boost."

Today's medical bulletin reported that there have been no further signs since Thursday night of internal bleeding — the cause of shock that brought Mr. Nixon to the brink of death hours after surgery.

The doctors said his red blood cell count "is holding at a satisfactory level" although he has not received any blood transfusions in the past 24 hours. Since going into shock, Mr. Nixon has received six pints of blood.

"There are no indications of continued oozing of blood, and the hematoma, or mass of blood, in his left flank (upper thigh) shows no evidence of enlarging."

See NIXON, A3, Col. 1

Nixon's Condition Continues to Improve

NIXON, From A1

Mr. Nixon's blood had been thinned with anti-coagulant drugs before the operation to prevent the formation of clots in his phlebitis-stricken left leg. These clots could break loose and travel to the lungs, where they could cause death.

The operation — the placing of a clothes-in-like plastic clip on the exterior iliac vein at its intersection with the interior iliac vein — was done to prevent clots from getting to the lungs.

Nager said today that selected venograph studies showed that there were no clots above the location where the clips were placed.

The doctors are walking a medical tightrope in an effort to keep Mr. Nixon's blood thin enough to prevent clotting but not so thin that tissue cut in the surgery will fail to clot and will instead "ooze" blood.

The hospital spokesman today contradicted previous statements that Mr. Nixon was receiving heparin, an anti-coagulating drug,, at the time he was operated on. Before the operation, he had been receiving heparin by injection every six hours.

Nager said today that doctors told him there was no need to give Mr. Nixon protamine sulfate, the drug that counteracts the effects of heparin, before the operation because he was not receiving the anti-clotting drug at the time.

Immediately after the operation, the chief surgeon, Dr. Eldon Hickman, had said that "heparin therapy is continuing." And 12 hours following the operation, after Mr. Nixon had gone into shock from loss of blood, Dr. Lungren said the heparin treatment had been "relaxed."

Specialists in vein surgery and blood problems who are not connected with the case said that continued heparin treatment is a very unusual procedure. They said the reason it was followed might have been because the former President's doctors were more concerned about additional life-threatening clots forming than they were about post operative internal bleeding.

Today's medical bulletin said Mr. Nixon is still confined to his bed. In order to prevent lung congestion his doctors said they told him to cough frequently and to breathe deeply.